

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-09 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 MC-02

ACDA-19 IO-12 MBFR-03 GAC-01 SAJ-01 IGA-02 AID-20

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 ABF-01 RSR-01 NEAE-00

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P 301320 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC 2057

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

CINCEUR

SECDEF WASHDC

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 SANAA 729

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, YE, YS, UR, SA, JO

SUBJ: MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR YAR

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

SECDEF FOR ISA

SUMMARY: YAR COMMANDER IN CHIEF REITERATES CONCERN
ABOUT SOVIET WEAPONS DELIVERIES TO ADEN AND DELAY
IN ARRIVAL OF ASSISTANCE FOR YEMENI FORCES. END SUMMARY.

1. YAR COMMANDER IN CHIEF MUHAMMAD AL- IRYANI ASKED
ME TO CALL EVENING APRIL 28. HE REVIEWED AGAIN, AT

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LENGTH AND IN DETAIL

HIS GOVERNMENT'S MOUNTING CONCERN
AT MILITARY IMBALANCE VIS A VIS PDRY. HE CITED
INTER ALIA YAR INTELLIGENCE REGARDING SOVIET DELIVERIES
OF NEW MATERIAL TO ADEN BY MILITARY AIRLIFT DURING
APRIL, AND EVIDENT PRESENCE OF SOVIET ADVISORS AT
PDRY FRONT LINE UNITS.

2. ON ITS SIDE, IRYANI SAID YAR DEFENSE POSITION IS
DEPLORABLE AND IN YARG VIEW CRITICAL. EVEN WITH HELP-
FUL BACKGROUND PROMPTING OF USG, SAG SUPPORT HAS BEEN
UNDULY DELAYED. ONLY SIGNIFICANT RESPONSE TO DATE TO
YARG'S REQUEST FOR SHORT TERM, URGENT ASSISTANCE HAS
BEEN RECEIPT OF 23 T-34 TANKS. HIGHEST PRIORITY ITEMS
NEEDED BY AIRLIFT FROM SAG ARE LIGHT AND HEAVY MACHINE
GUNS, 106 RECOILLESS RIFLES AND JEEPS. PROMPT OVER-
LAND DELIVERY OF TRUCKS AND HALF DOZEN BULLDOZERS (TO
OPEN UP ROUTES TO FRONT LINE POSITIONS) IS ESSENTIAL.
ALSO NEEDED ARE FOUR TO SIX LARGE TRANSPORT HELICOPTERS
WITH CREWS.

3. IRYANI CONTINUED THAT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN,
USSR CONTINUES PLAY COY IN RESPONSE YARG LONG OUT-
STANDING REQUESTS FOR SPARE PARTS AND AMMUNITION FOR
EXISTING RUSSIAN INVENTORY. SOVIET AMBASSADOR SPEAKS
OF IMMINENT ARRIVAL OF SHIP OF MATERIEL BUT YARG
PLACING NO FAITH IN THESE ASSURANCES IN LIGHT DEMON-
STRATED SOVIET PERFORMANCE IN ADEN. FOR POLITICAL AND
INTELLIGENCE BENEFIT, SOVIETS CONTINUE PROFFER QTE
MILITARY ADVISORS UNQTE BUT YARG WELL AWARE THAT SOVIETS
ARE USING THEIR EXISTING PRESENCE TO OBTAIN INFORMATION
ON YAR DEFENSES FOR PASSAGE TO PDRY. EVERY EFFORT IS
BEING MADE COMPARTMENTALIZE EXISTING SOVIET ADVISORS
SO THEY CANNOT OBTAIN INFORMATION THEY SEEKING.
SOVIETS CONTINUE OFFER GRATIS MILITARY SCHOLARSHIPS
IN USSR--800 ALONE FOR CURRENT
YEAR. YARG USING
STALLING TACTICS TO PARRY THESE OFFERS AND HAS MANAGED
TO KEEP TO 200 THE NUMBER OF YEMENIS CURRENTLY BEING
TRAINED IN SOVIET UNION. HOWEVER, TRAINING AVAILABILITY
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BEING WIDELY PUBLICIZED BY SOVIET ADVISORS AND IN
ABSENCE ANY OTHER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES SAVE MARGINAL
TRAINING BEING OFFERED IN SAUDI ARABIA, IT IS
POLITICALLY DIFFICULT FOR YARG'S SENIOR COMMANDERS
TURN DOWN REQUESTS BY JUNIOR OFFICERS TO AVAIL THEM-
SELVES OF KNOWN SOVIET OFFERS.

4. CIC COMMENTED AS HE HAS IN PAST THAT YARG'S MILI-
TARY AND SECURITY INTELLIGENCE VIRTUALLY NIL. EXTEN-

SIVE PDRY INTELLIGENCE NETWORK IN NORTH UNCOVERED DURING PAST WEEK (SEPTTEL) BUT THIS WAS COMPLETE COINCIDENCE RATHER THAN RESULT OF ANY COORDINATED YARG RESPONSE TO TERRORIST THREAT MOUNTED FROM ADEN.

5. CIC SAID HE WOULD BE VISITING TAIZ APRIL 29 FOR COMPLETE REVIEW OF SECURITY SITUATION WITH PRESIDENT AL- IRYANI AND OTHER YARG LEADERS. HE ASKED WHAT INFORMATION I COULD PROVIDE BY WAY OF REASSURANCE THAT SAG SERIOUS IN ITS PROFESSED CONCERN FOR YAR DEFENSE PROBLEMS.

6. IN RESPONSE, I GAVE AL- IRYANI LATEST INFORMATION ON STATUS OF US DISCUSSIONS WITH SAG, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR THACHER' S APPROACHES AND GENERAL GOODPASTOR VISIT. I NOTED THAT DISCUSSIONS DURING JUST- CONCLUDED MEETING OF US CHIEFS OF MISSION IN TEHRAN WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE RUSH AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO HAD CONFIRMED HIGH LEVEL URGENT CONCERN OF USG TO ENSURE THAT YAR RECEIVE MATERIEL AND TRAINING ASSISTANCE IT SO SORELY NEEDED. SAG FULLY AWARE OF USG POSITION. SAG WELCOMES THIS AND FROM ALL EVIDENCE SHARES USG SENSE OF URGENCY. WE EXPECT VISIT TO YEMEN BY CHIEF OF G-3 GENERAL KABBANI IN FIRST FEW DAYS OF MAY. WE HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH HIM IN EFFORT ENSURE THAT HIS VISIT TO YEMEN IS PRODUCTIVE.

7. ON QUESTIONS OF TRAINING AND INTELLIGENCE I COMMENTED THAT CURRENT VISIT TO YEMEN OF US AMBASSADOR
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IN JORDAN HAD PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR IN- HOUSE DISCUSSION OF WHAT PART GOJ MIGHT HELPFULLY PLAY IN THE YEMEN PICTURE. WHILE IT WAS NOT OUR THOUGHT THAT JORDAN' S SHOULD BE A MAJOR ROLE, AND WHILE WE AWARE OF YARG' S PREFERENCE MAINTAIN BEST POSSIBLE RELATIONS WITH ARAB STATES ACROSS THE BOARD, WE FELT JORDANIAN MILITARY SCHOOLS WERE BEST IN ARAB WORLD. GOJ ALSO HAS RESOURCES IN TERMS OF OFFICERS QUALIFIED TO HELP YEMEN DEVELOP MILITARY INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITIES, IN A NON- POLITICAL AND DISCREET WAY. WE CONSIDER IT WITHIN YARG' S COMPETENCE OBTAIN FUNDING FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS BY JORDAN AND OTHER AREA STATES FROM SYMPATHETIC FRIENDS SUCH AS SAUDI ARABIA, UAE AND NOW PERHAPS KUWAIT. WE WOULD BE URGING GOJ DISPATCH ITS AMBASSADOR TO SANAA PROMPTLY. OUR SUGGESTION WOULD BE THAT WHOLE RANGE OF COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP BE RAISED WITH HIM ON ARRIVAL. WE WOULD MOST STRONGLY

RECOMMEND, HOWEVER, THAT YARG USE ITS KNOWN DIPLOMA-
TIC ASTUTENESS TO ENSURE THAT IT KEEPS STRAIGHT ITS
LINES OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN ITS SEVERAL FRIENDS IN
AREA, I. E. INTENDED APPROACHES TO JORDAN SHOULD BE
REVIEWED WITH SAG, AS SHOULD YARG'S WISH THAT IRAN
SEND MILITARY TEAM TO ASSESS HOW AND WHETHER GOI COULD
HELP OUT ON SHORT TERM HELP IN SPARE PARTS AND AMMUNI-
TION FOR SOVIET WEAPONS. CONVERSELY, IRAN SHOULD BE
KEPT FULLY INFORMED ABOUT NATURE OF YARG'S RELIANCE
ON SAG FOR BOTH SHORT TERM SHOT- IN- THE- ARM HELP AND
LONGER TERM RESUPPLY LOOKING TOWARD REORIENTATION OF
YARG MILITARY TOWARD WESTERN INVENTORY WITH PROPER
TRAINING AIMED AT FUNDAMENTAL IMPROVEMENT IN YAR
DEFENSE POSTURE OVER 3-4 YEAR PERIOD.

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8. CIC AGREED THAT IT HIS COUNTRY ' S RESPONSIBILITY
INDUCE COOPERATION RATHER THAN FRICTION BETWEEN ITS
FRIENDS. AS AN EXAMPLE IMMEDIATELY AT HAND, USSR HAD
FOR PAST TWO YEARS BEEN PRESSING HIM PAY OFFICIAL VISIT.
WITHOUT SLIGHTEST ILLUSION THAT THIS COULD PROVE OF

ANY UTILITY IN PRODUCING MORE BALANCED SOVIET POSTURE AS BETWEEN YAR AND PDRY, DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED THAT IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY INADVISABLE FOR HIM TO CONTINUE SO OBVIOUSLY COLD SHOULDER SOVIET INVITATION. ACCORDINGLY HE HAD AGREED MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT BEGINNING MAY 5. YARG CONFIDENT USG WOULD COMPREHEND RATIONALE FOR THIS DECISION IN TERMS OF YARG'S CONFRONTATION WITH ADEN AND ITS NEED TO MAINTAIN IMAGE OF PROGRESSIVE STATE COMMANDING MAXIMUM IN TERMS OF ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT. HOWEVER, YARG

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FEARFUL SAG MIGHT NOT SEE THE BROAD PICTURE.

9. I REPLIED USG WOULD INDEED BE UNDERSTANDING BUT YARG WELL ADVISED BE CONCERNED ABOUT SAG REACTION TO VISIT TO USSR SCHEDULED AT THIS TIME. YARG RATIONALE SHOULD, I URGED, BE DISCUSSED WITH GENERAL KABBANI DURING HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT. MIGHT BE WELL ALSO TO HAVE PRIMIN AL- HAJRI AND CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT AL- AHMAR EXPLAIN MATTERS TO SAUDI AMBASSADOR SUDAIRY. SAG HAS SPECIAL CONFIDENCE IN THESE TWO OFFICIALS AND SUDAIRY MIGHT OTHERWISE IMMEDIATELY INFLUENCE SAG REACTION IN NEGATIVE SENSE. AL- IRYANI SAID THIS WOULD BE DONE.

10. IN CONCLUSION OF CONVERSATION, I NOTED GENERAL PRAISE IN YARG FOR QUIET UK ASSISTANCE TO YARG INTERIOR MINISTRY IN SECURITY FIELD. IRYANI RESPONDED THAT BRITISH CONTRIBUTION OF A HIGHLY COMPETENT SECURITY ADVISOR GRATEFULLY RECEIVED BUT SERVICES OF ONE MAN A DROP IN THE BUCKET IN CONTEXT OF YARG'S PITIFUL CAPABILITIES, PARTICULARLY WHEN THESE CONTRASTED WITH SOVIET, EAST GERMAN AND CUBAN ASSISTANCE BEING CHanneLED SO EFFECTIVELY TO PDRY IN ALL FIELDS INCLUDING MILITARY TRAINING, INTELLIGENCE, AND TERRORISM. I SAID I DOUBTED SOVIETS FINDING THINGS ALL THAT EASY IN PDRY. YARG PROBABLY OVERESTIMATING ITS ADVERSARY'S CAPABILITY TO ABSORB EVEN THE PURPOSEFUL AND GENEROUS ASSISTANCE BEING PROVIDED UNDER SOVIET STIMULUS. OBJECTIVELY, YAR'S FEARS AS TO PDRY INTENTIONS ALMOST CERTAINLY MATCHED BY ADENI APPREHENSIONS AS TO OBJECTIVES OF SAG AND YAR WITH THEIR SUBSIDIZED TRIBAL FORCES, AND NUF UNITS. TO BE ASSUMED ALSO THAT PDRY BY NOW GENERALLY AWARE AND FEARFUL OF CONSEQUENCES OF USG'S DETERMINATION HELP ITS FRIENDS RESIST COMMUNIST EXPANSION.

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